

WSR 23-20-111

**PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT**

[Filed October 3, 2023, 3:25 p.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: This rule making will consider permanently adopting the employment security department's (department) emergency rules concerning natural disasters and any additional rule changes needed to address the impacts of natural or other types of disasters on claimants and employers.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 50.12.010, 50.12.040, 50.20.010, 50.22.155, and 50.29.021.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: This rule making is necessary to address the impact of disasters, such as wildfires, on claimants and employers.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: The United States Department of Labor (USDOL) reviews the state's administration of the unemployment insurance program to ensure conformity to federal statutes and regulations. The state has broad flexibility in the implementation of the unemployment insurance laws so long as conformity is maintained. The proposed regulations will be shared with USDOL prior to adoption

Process for Developing New Rule: Draft rules will be shared with the public and stakeholders. The department will solicit input from all parties and consider all comments in the development of final rules.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Stephanie Frazee, P.O. Box 9046, phone 425-465-0313, fax 844-652-7096, TTY relay 711, email stephanie.frazee@esd.wa.gov, website <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/rulemaking/>.

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